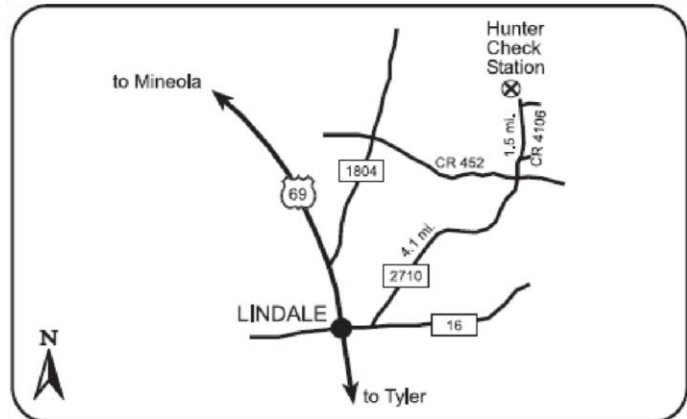




Old Sabine Bottom WMA

Background:

The Old Sabine Bottom WMA consists of 5,727 acres of bottomland hardwood habitat. It was purchased in 1995 for the conservation of this valuable habitat type and to provide an area for public recreational opportunity. The management area is relatively undeveloped and much of it is accessible only by foot. Many game and nongame wildlife species inhabit the tract. The management area represents river bottom habitat that is typical of the Upper Sabine River Basin. It contains plants and animals commonly found in this habitat type. Public hunts for deer, squirrel, waterfowl, and hog are conducted during the hunting season. Annual Permit holders are allowed day use of the area most of the year for nature hikes, bird watching, etc. Additional information on regulations, permits, and restrictions may be found online at www.tpwd.texas.gov or by contacting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office in Lindale, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Phone: (903) 881-8233.



Permit Requirements:

A Special Permit, valid Texas Hunting License, and any stamp required by statute are required to access the area during Special Permitted hunts. It is no longer necessary to use a hunting license tag for a deer taken during a Special Permit drawn hunt; however a TPWD Legal Deer Tag, issued at the area, must be attached to a harvested deer prior to leaving the hunt area. Persons under 17 years of age must hunt under the direct supervision of a permitted adult unless they possess a valid Texas Hunter Education Certification. Youth that possess the certification are not required to be under the immediate presence of a supervising adult. Failure of the adult to properly supervise the youth hunter will result in forfeiture of the permits of both hunters.

Hunter Orientation:

Hunters drawn for Special Permitted hunts should arrive at the Hunter Check Station located off of County Road 4106 at the Old Channel Parking Area between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on the first day of the hunt for registration, assigning of a hunt area, and hunter orientation. **Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation.** After orientation hunters will then be released to hunt their assigned compartment.

Standby Hunters:

Open hunting positions will be filled by standby hunters. Hunters who are applying for standby positions should arrive at the Hunter Check Station by 10:00 a.m. on the first day of the hunt to check for openings. Persons must be physically present and fill out an application card prior to orientation. If there are more standby hunters than positions a drawing will be held to fill the open positions. Standby hunters selected will be required to pay the special permit fee. **Information on the availability of standby positions may not be known until the day of the hunt.**

Legal Game:

Legal game, legal hunting hours, bag limits, possession limits, and means and methods can be on line from the Public Hunt Drawing System or will be covered during the orientation.

Firearms and Ammunition:

Buckshot and rimfire ammunition are prohibited during Special Permitted deer hunts. Automatic firearms are prohibited. Loaded firearms are prohibited in motor vehicles, parking areas, the Hunter Check Station, and designated campsites. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm on or across a designated road.

Vehicles and Roads:

Motor vehicles are allowed on main roads only. **Parking is allowed only at designated Parking Areas or as authorized by TPWD hunt personnel.** Care should be taken when driving on narrow roads. Vehicles may get stuck when pulled off a road to allow another vehicle to pass. **Special Note —** The management area may be closed to all vehicles, including handicapped permitted ATVs or ORVs, when roads/trails are flooded or too muddy. Only foot travel will be permitted during these periods. The area is frequently flooded so waterproof footwear or hip boots are recommended.

ATVs:

The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs) are allowed only during Special Permitted hunts. ATV operators must abide by all safety regulations including the display of a current ORV decal, operator must have completed an ATV safety course and carry their safety certificate with them, and the operator must wear an approved helmet and eye protection. Passengers are prohibited. Four-wheel drive ORVs must also display required decal per **Senate Bill 1311**.

Dogs:

Dogs are not permitted in the hunting or trailing of deer or hogs.

Blinds and Baiting:

No permanent blinds or blinds that damage trees are allowed. Temporary blinds are permitted but cannot be placed within 50 yards of a main road, area boundary, parking area, or oil well/oil storage tank. Blinds must be removed upon completion of a hunt and can be emplaced no longer than 72 hours. Hunters cannot maintain exclusive hunting rights to any part of the WMA. Baiting of any wildlife species is prohibited.

Camping & Lodging:

Hunters are encouraged to camp at the management area during Special Permitted hunts. Lodging is available nearby in Lindale. Camping is also available at Tyler State Park. **Camping will be allowed only in designated areas.**

Alcohol:

Entry is prohibited if a person is under the influence of alcohol or consumes an alcoholic beverage while engaged in hunting activities, or publicly consumes or displays an alcoholic beverage.

Hunter Orange:

When hunting with firearms is permitted on the area, persons must wear hunter orange headgear and 400 square inches of hunter orange material with at least 144 square inches of hunter orange appearing on both chest and back. Those exempted from hunter orange requirements are persons within vehicles or at parking areas or persons in the field when firearms are not permitted on the area.

Special Regulations:

Horse, mules, or other riding stock is prohibited on the area. No littering. It is unlawful for any person not to obey posted regulations, fail to comply with instructions on area leaflets and signs, or refuse to follow directions given by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel in the discharge of their official duties. It is unlawful to disturb or remove plants, rocks, artifacts, or other objects from the WMA. Nongame wildlife species are to be left alone.

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